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Kissinger had 'phones bugged, says author

By RICHARD BEESTON in Washington

DR KISSINGER kept F B I transcripts of wire-tapped recordings of members of his staff in Washington's most protected place—the White House safe which contains coded orders for authorising a nuclear attack, according to a book published today.

The book, "The American Police State," was written by David Wise, an American author who specialises in intelligence affairs.

Mr Wise says that despite Dr Kissinger's denials, the then-Presidential adviser for national security played an active role in the illegal wire-tapping, personally naming 14 of the 17 staff assistants and journalists who were bugged by the F B I.

Some of the F B I logs of tapped conversations of his assistants in the early 1970s were kept in the safe which contained "the nation's most highly-classified nuclear codes."

Collect transcripts

One set of the codes is carried by a warrant officer, wherever the President goes, in a locked briefcase. The orders constitute the doomsday or "nuclear button."

Mr Wise claims that on more than a dozen occasions Dr Kissinger sent his then-deputy, General Alexander Haig, now Nato commander, to F B I headquarters to pick up the latest transcripts of conversations of members of his staff, who had their home telephones bugged.

The book also claims that the case of the CIA slipping the drug LSD to a Pentagon employee, who later committed suicide, was only one of many such experiments.

Over a period of years, the author says, CIA agents picked up Americans at random in bars and invited them to "safe houses," where they were drugged with LSD and had their reactions secretly tape-recorded while being observed through two-way mirrors.

Mr Wise, writing about presidential abuse of intelligence agencies, also claims that the late President Johnson sent 25 F B I agents to bug the 1964 Democratic national conventions in Atlantic City, and had the entire convention wired.